



KCros PO Box 425 Jindabyne NSW 2627.

www.kcros.org.au

YOUR VOICE FOR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

NEWSLETTER – July 2005 ISSUE

Contact Details of Committee 2004/05

Contact:	Area:	Phone (Home):	Email:
Tony Greville	Tarago	02 4844 5047	agrevill@ozemail.com.au
Margaret McCawley	Canberra	02 6281 2831	margaret.mccawley@bigpond.com
Sue Edmondson	Jindabyne	02 6457 1350	
Laurinda Allan	Jindabyne	02 6457 2372	
Gwen Harding	Canberra	02 6240 8221	
Ron Perry	Wollongong	02 4268 0367	

NOTICE OF KCROS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

TO BE HELD AT 3.30PM ON FRIDAY 12TH AUGUST 2005
AT THE NPWS RANGER STATION, PERISHER VALLEY

ALL INTERESTED CROSS COUNTRY SKIERS AND THEIR FRIENDS ARE WELCOME
TO COME AND HEAR THE LATEST NEWS

KCros is a special interest group with a primary focus on the issues of service and facilities for cross country skiers in Kosciuszko National Park.

Experience has shown that a unified, well-organised representation is more effective than many small scattered voices.

KCros has the mandate of various cross-country organisations and independent skiers to speak on those issues on their behalf as a single strong voice.

KCros exists to ensure that the views and needs of cross country skiers are addressed and met in the operation of and in the future development of the Kosciuszko National Park.

KCros is aware of the differing needs of beginners, novices, children, seniors, racers, the physically disadvantaged, ski orienteers and biathletes, day tourers, back country tourers and snow campers.

KCros provides the structure for varied and unrelated cross country skiing groups as well as independent skiers' to speak with one voice on issues that affect safe and enjoyable participation in their chosen sport anywhere within Kosciuszko National Park.

KCros will identify and investigate relevant issues of concern to cross country skiers. When necessary KCros will co-ordinate lobbying activities and establish an effective lobby network wherever and whenever it is needed.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A very belated 2005 newsletter for which I apologise. Over the last 12 months while as individuals many of us have been busy on issues related to skiing, Perisher and Kosciuszko National Park, there has been little activity from KCros as an organisation.

Unfortunately on a personal basis I have not been able to make the time needed to effectively contribute to KCros.

The main activity during the year has involved detailed discussions about the longer term management of cross country skiing in Perisher valley and on the Perisher Range. These discussions have included organising the preliminaries to setting up an organisation with the potential to manage cross country skiing, including track grooming, setting and trail fees.

The discussions have also involved National Parks and Wildlife Service and Perisher Blue. After a number of years of less than helpful relations with Perisher Blue the recent discussions have been positive and fruitful, hopefully to both cross country skiing and Perisher Blue.

The rate of change in the mountains seems to have continued albeit at a slower rate. Discussions have continued on the role of NPWS in relation to the resorts and the management of cross country skiing and KNP, with the prospect of more changes for both the resorts and the Park.

With many of the changes happening in the management of the KNP and skiing the question must be asked whether the need for KCros as an advocacy, lobby group is as great as when it was set up.

While through the efforts of KCros the profile and voice of cross country skiing has increased considerably, the more consultative and receptive approach by NPWS has reduced the need for a strong lobbying voice. This does not mean that KCros will not be needed in the future.

As I said last year my own view is that KCros does continue to have an important role to play. This is particularly so given the inevitable coordination difficulties between NPWS, Planning NSW and RTA. KCros and other cross country skiing bodies will need to keep across these issues to ensure that cross country skiing is not disadvantaged.

However, for its voice to be heard KCros needs commitment and input of time and energy from its members, resources that in the past we have not been short of.

For 2005/06 KCros needs some new people to step forward for the committee. I will not be renominating as president. The ability of KCros to function effectively depends on a strong commitment and involvement from members and the committee. I strongly urge members to take the extra step and nominate for the committee.

Tony Greville President

FROM THE EDITOR

The 2005 Annual General Meeting

The KCros AGM will be held at the NPWS Ranger Station Perisher at 3.30pm on Friday 12 August 2005, this being the Friday at the end of Cross Country Week. Please feel free to come along to air your concerns or gain support for any ideas you may have that will benefit X-C skiing.

There will be an election of a new committee. A new President is urgently required as Tony does not intend to re-nominate. This is your opportunity to lead and contribute to the changing world of cross country skiing in the Kosciusko National Park.

There is also no membership secretary and so there are at least two positions to fill. This is an opportunity for you to put your hand up, to put your skills into practice or to learn new ones and make new contacts. You will be very welcome by those continuing on the committee.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

2004 AGM Report

Tony Greville presented the President's report drawn from his report in the July 2004 newsletter. He said that the major question was whether KCros had a future and argued that he thought that it did. In his President's report emphasised the need for committed and active people as part of a strong committee to drive KCros on.

He said that at present, relationships between cross country skiing and NPWS as well as Perisher Blue were quite positive with good feedback and that there were issues we need to take up with both. He felt that in the present good climate working together was likely to be the most effective operating method.

Tony reported that on behalf of KCros he had presented a submission on the Alpine Resorts Plan Commission and the line he took was X-C skiers as a group should be consulted about resort matters eg if a lift was proposed across the X-C area.

In contrast he said that the Plan of Management currently open for submissions covered the whole park and had limited mention of X-C skiing in resorts as X-C ski information that was in the previous draft had been taken out. Tony thought that it was important that KCros put something in about X-C skiing mentioning the consultative committee and also X-C skiing outside the resorts.

The Plan of Management had some 15 recommendations relating to X-C skiing and said that he appreciated comments from members. He said that NPWS would continue to be responsible for X-C skiing.

Tony thanked both Michael Stevens and Margaret McCawley for their vital contribution for their work on the web page and newsletter respectively.

Margaret McCawley presented the Secretary's report stating that there had been one newsletter sent out during the year and one meeting of the Committee held in September 2003.

Laurinda Allan presented the Treasurer's Report stating that there was \$5368.70 in the bank but this included \$2430 promised to the Nordic Shelter and several bills were yet to be paid including the printing of the July newsletter. Donations had decreased and the feeling of the meeting on this was that because of only the one newsletter during the year donations were down as they come in after an issue.

All positions were declared open with the Chair being taken by Pat Edmonson. Tony Greville was re-elected as President, Margaret McCawley was re-elected as Secretary without the responsibility of newsletter editor. Gwen Harding was elected to the

position of newsletter editor. Laurinda Allan was re-elected to the position of Treasurer. Mr Ron Perry was elected as Web page manager. Sue Edmonson was re-elected to the role of Public Officer.

Members suggested that there should be more publicity for KCros suggesting that an article be given to newspapers. It was suggested that the AGM should be put in the local newspapers and that the role of KCros should be mentioned in the article.

The President suggested that there should be discussion on wider issues such as trail fees and the management of X-C skiing that now rests with skiers and groups.

The President informed the meeting that the NPWS would like to hand over the winter grooming to a X-C Group and was only likely to continue the existing level of funding for grooming for 5 years after 2004.

He said that a number of issues needed to be sorted out so that neither X-C nor the organisations involved were disadvantaged. He also said that it was important to resolve the issue while the goodwill with NPWS existed.

One option being considered was a three way agreement between Perisher Blue, NPWS and the X-C Group, with a legal agreement relating to any money handed over.

A heated discussion followed about grooming and trail fees. A lengthy discussion followed on collecting information on grooming which led to a discussion of types and standards of grooming and variations in snow years.

The President explained that while KCros has a role in relation to grooming it has much broader role than just grooming. It is gathering information to make decisions.

Peter Ward informed the meeting that the proposed X-C Group had the grooming question under consideration. He explained the proposed X-C Group, currently known as the Interim Kosciuszko Cross Country Management Group has set up two groups:

- Tony Greville, Robin Gibson and Peter Cunningham are working on the structure
- Bruce Marshall, Wayne Petherbridge, Alan Civil and Peter Ward are doing practical work on a model for next winter focusing on grooming, Nordic centre, expansion of trails, trail fees

Perisher Blue has been involved in discussions. A X-C community congress (2 day) is planned for the end of April/early May 2005.

Peter Cunningham said he would talk to Falls Creek and Lake Mountain about their trail fees.

Peter Ward reiterated that it was important to fast track the congress and promised a result from the interim group.

The meeting was closed at 4.39pm.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Members email addresses. We are always losing email addresses because people change jobs and service providers. Members are asked to send us their email address so that we can keep them up to date with news reports.

Members mail addresses Remember to advise KCros of your change of address so that we can keep in touch.

KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK ANNUAL PASS

Did you know that all NSW Senior Card Holders are entitled to a 20% discount on annual passes? Did you know that NSW Pensioner Concession Card holders are entitled to free entry to all NSW national parks and reserves?

An All NSW Parks pass costs \$85 for one year and \$150 for two years.

AUSTRALIAN ALPS FIRST PEOPLE'S GATHERING

The Australian Alps First People's gathering was held at Dinner Plain 1-3 March 2005. Over 60 Traditional Owners attended, with well over 100 participants in total. The Koori Heritage Trust is in the process of producing a short video of the Gathering. For further information contact Ray Supple rsupple@parks.vic.gov.au

LIST OF DONORS TO KCROS

Subscriptions and Donation in the last 12 months will be included in the next newsletter.

There is also a donation box in the Nordic Shelter under the KCros noticeboard for anonymous donations.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS (OR CHANGES) AND ANNUAL DONATION FORM

Your KCros subscription gives life membership and KCros is funded by voluntary annual donations from members. Donations for 2005 can be sent in now.

(This form is also available on the Web Site for printing and posting to KCros)

Address for postage: KCros PO Box 425 Jindabyne NSW 2627

Family Name.....(PLEASE PRINT ALL DETAIL)

Family Members Names (Include ages where under 15 yrs).....

.....

Address for Newsletter (if changed).....

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Email Address if available

Donation (Please indicate and include Cheque/Money Order payable to KCros)
(No cash through post, please)

Single \$10	Family \$20	Donation \$.....
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All members are asked to please send in changes to e-mail and postal addresses

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